



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

Public Comment Period Begins for draft Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Report (PEA) on former Jorco Chemical Company, Yucaipa

A draft Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) report is available for public review and comment for the former Jorco Chemical Company (Jorco) site. The former Jorco site is in a commercial/industrial and partly residential area located at 32185 East Outer Highway I-10, in Yucaipa. A PEA was conducted to determine if past or current site waste practices resulted in the release or threatened release of hazardous substances which may pose a threat to public health or the environment.

Our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the lead agency overseeing the environmental assessment of the Jorco site and our role is to protect public health and the environment. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) was prepared as the proposed remedy, a Land Use Covenant (LUC), to address chemical releases that occurred at the site will not have an adverse environmental impact. This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why a draft PEA Was Conducted
- History and Operations at the Site
- Results of the draft PEA and Proposed Remedy
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Next Steps
- Who to Contact for More Information
- Where To Find Project Documents

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

March 7th, through April 6th, 2011

The draft PEA report and draft NOE is available for public comment beginning **March 7th, and ending April 6th, 2011**. We will consider and respond to all public comments received before approving the PEA report. **All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than April 6th, 2011, and sent to:**

**Mr. Johnson Abraham, DTSC Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: jabraham@dtsc.ca.gov.**

The draft PEA report, draft NOE and other project documents are available for review at the Information Repository locations listed on page 3 inside this fact sheet.



Why a PEA Was Conducted

A PEA was conducted because documented releases of various chemicals into shallow soil occurred from previous Jorco site operations. A Voluntary Cleanup Agreement was executed between DTSC and Jorco to conduct a PEA. The objectives of the PEA include:

- 1) Compile the results of previous environmental site assessments and investigations, determine the nature and extent of the contamination, and evaluate the completeness of the investigations and any remedial actions previously conducted at the site;
- 2) Estimate the potential threat to public health, (including on-site workers, visitors, etc.) and the environment posed by the site;
- 3) Determine if there are any data gaps and identify possible remedial and/or administrative actions, if any, based on the future use of the site, and;
- 4) Determine if a Land Use Covenant (LUC) is required for the site.

History and Operations at the Site

The former Jorco site occupies about 1.87 acres and is adjacent to Interstate Freeway I-10 and the frontage road along I-10 referred to as East Outer Highway I-10. The former Jorco business is currently occupied by another commercial business named “Stone Solutions do Brazil” that imports exotic granite and other semi-precious stone materials for commercial and residential finish construction. The former structures historically associated with Jorco are no longer present at the site. The site presently contains two buildings and various exterior storage and work areas that are used by Stone Solutions do Brazil.

From 1955 to 2003, Jorco operated a chemical manufacturing facility that produced chemical products based on latex and poly-acrylate formulations. Jorco’s operations ceased in 2005, when most of the former chemical manufacturing facilities and equipments were dismantled and removed. Chemical products manufactured during Jorco’s operations were polyacrylate thickeners and adhesives. Sodium polyacrylate was manufactured for enhancing drilling muds in

the petroleum oil and gas exploration business. Principal raw chemicals associated with the manufacturing of sodium polyacrylate and other products were methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, styrene, methanol, sulfuric acid and caustic soda.

Prior to DTSC involvement with the site beginning in 2004, Jorco was under oversight of the San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD) to address areas of known hazardous materials releases. SBCFD determined the former Jorco facility buildings contained various chemical storage and processing areas and equipment, raw materials storage areas, laboratory and office areas, warehousing areas, and maintenance facilities. Exterior facilities included a chemical storage and processing area and an underground storage tank (UST) farm. These USTs were used to store chemicals and leaks from the pipelines are the primary source of contaminant releases at the former Jorco site.

Under the authority of the SBCFD the remedial actions conducted at the Jorco facility included excavation of contaminated soil and soil vapor extraction of contaminated soil to acceptable levels. These remedial actions were successful in reducing the levels of contaminants to minimal levels however residual soil contamination remains present. Residual soil contamination remains because remedial excavation previously performed could not advance beneath the building structures.

Results of the draft PEA and Proposed Remedy

DTSC analysis of previous and existing investigation data shows the materials released to soil at this site from former on-site operations include methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, styrene, ethyl-benzene, and diesel fuel. DTSC investigations fully characterized the known areas of releases. Chemicals released to the environment at the site are present at low levels in subsurface soil in the vicinity of the northerly corner of the former Jorco building and beneath the former chemical processing area located directly north of the former Jorco building.

As part of the PEA, a human health risk assessment was conducted to determine if historical activities conducted by the former

Jorco facility that resulted in releases of chemicals could adversely affect the health of persons that work at or visit the site. The draft PEA report concludes the site poses a minimal risk to public health and the environment, including on-site workers from residual chemicals that remain on-site under the current industrial/commercial land-use scenario. The draft PEA also concludes that conditions at the former Jorco facility (from chemicals that remain on-site) make it unacceptable for use as a residential property and that a LUC needs be placed on the property restricting it to commercial/industrial land use.

Proposed Remedy

DTSC has reviewed the draft PEA report and determined the draft PEA report is adequate and, as a remedy, recommends a LUC be placed on the property in the form of a Deed Restriction that will be filed after DTSC approves the PEA report.

California Environmental Quality Act

DTSC is required by CEQA to review environmental activities for the possibility of impacts, before approving the draft PEA report. DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) that the proposed remedy (LUC) will not have an adverse environmental impact.

How You Can Participate

We want to know what you think about the draft PEA report and our proposed remedy for the former Jorco site. A 30-day public comment period for the draft PEA report and draft NOE will begin **March 7th, and end April 6th, 2011**. You may provide your comments on the draft PEA report and draft NOE during this period. **All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by April 6th, 2011 and sent to:**

Johnson Abraham, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: jabraham@dtsc.ca.gov

Next Steps

DTSC will consider and respond in writing to all public comments received during the public comment period on the draft PEA report and draft

NOE. After DTSC approves the PEA report, a LUC (deed restriction) will be placed on the property that restricts the property to industrial/commercial use.

Who to Contact at DTSC for Information

For more information about the former Jorco site, please contact:

Johnson Abraham, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5476
E-mail: jabraham@dtsc.ca.gov

Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5354 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
E-mail: slear@dtsc.ca.gov

Where To Find Project Documents

The draft PEA report, draft NOE and other related site project documents will be available for public review at the following Information Repositories:

Yucaipa Branch Library
12040 5th Street
Yucaipa, CA 92399-2794
(909) 790-3146
Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs – 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Fri – 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Sat – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sun – Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5337
Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the number above to make an appointment.

For more information about the former Jorco Chemical Company site visit www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov. For more information about our department, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

TDD users can contact the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.

For Media Inquiries

Ms. Sandra Friedman
Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5383
E-mail: sfriedma@dtsc.ca.gov

**NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR
DRAFT PRELIMINARY ENDANGERMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT AND DRAFT NOTICE OF
EXEMPTION FOR THE FORMER JORCO CHEMICAL COMPANY SITE, YUCAIPA, CA**

DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.